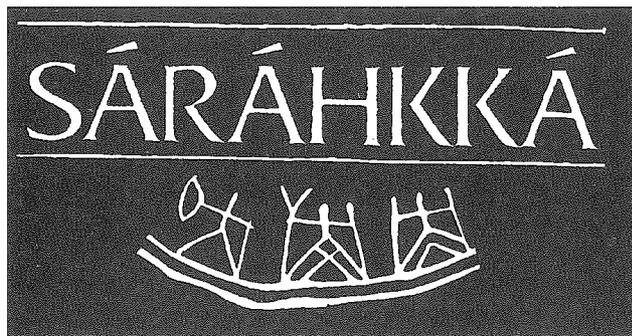


# Conference Updates



## Indian Women of the World Meet in the Land of the Reindeer People



*... in the eye of wintry storms,  
In the teeth of howling blizzards,  
Sami kinship spreads its warm embrace;  
Moonlight guides the wayfarer,  
Under flows of flashing northern lights;...  
- Sami National Anthem*

Indian women from the four corners of the world gathered in the land of the Sami people last summer to share experiences and plan strategies for developing an international grassroots organization. The meeting was hosted by *Sáráhkká*, the Sami Women's organization. As a result of this meeting, a decision was made to develop an *International Indigenous Women's Organization* with an egalitarian structure to promote the participation of Indigenous women in decision-making processes.

Several meetings will be held in the coming months to develop an organizational structure based on our traditional forms of community administration. At the same time, efforts are being made to notify Indian women throughout the world of our plans and to invite them to participate.

The next International Conference is scheduled for October, 1992. A *South and Central American Indian Women's Conference* will be taking place in Lima, Perú in March, 1991 and hosted by AIDSESEP (*Association of Indian Organizations of the Peruvian Amazon*) and COICA. This will be a historic meeting since it will be the first time a conference of South and Central American Indian women is held. Our sisters from the participating organizations have requested financial support to make their grassroots organizing efforts a reality.

**We urge you to respond to this request  
by sending contributions to:  
Indian Women's Grassroot Movement  
Tides Foundation c/o SAIC  
PO Box 28703  
Oakland, CA 94604**

Following is the Declaration of Karasjohka:

We, Indigenous women from 19 countries have come together on August 5-9, 1990 in Karasjohka, Samiland (Norway), to collectively share our



*Indian women of the world meeting in the Land of the Reindeer.*

socio-economic, cultural, political and spiritual situations, experiences and needs. We come from various parts of the world and are aware of our diversity, but we are here because we believe that we also have common grounds for unity and action.

We heard the testimonies of our Indigenous sisters on issues related to the global environmental crisis, the effects of exploitation of our ancestral territories and natural resources on our lives as women, the impact of militarization and nuclearization and presence of foreign military bases on our lands and seas. We tried to understand how powerful nations and governments have imposed state laws on us which have institutionalized our discrimination and repression and facilitated the rape of our lands.

We have realized that our continuing marginalization and oppression as Indigenous women are results of colonization, the setting up of powerful nations of neo-colonies to ensure their economic, political, cultural and military stranglehold over supposedly sovereign nations and the insatiable greed of multinational corporations to accumulate profits.

We were also made aware that patriarchal systems have been imposed on us by such oppressive structures to further ensure the division between the people and assure the continued domination of these powerful nations and multinational corporations.

We are alarmed by the continuing number of Indigenous women and children being victimized by military operations in the guise of anti-communism, as shared with us by our sisters in Central and South America and in Asia. The number of Indigenous women being raped, sexually abused, tortured, arbitrarily arrested, and widowed have been increasing since the United States Government has launched low-intensity warfare on various South and Central American, and Asian nations which have national liberation movements.

The rapid degradation of the environment of our ancestral homelands has caused irreparable damage to our lives and lands and we have come up with regional workshop resolutions which address problems related to this.

We grieve over what is happening to Mother Earth, and we share in the pain of our sisters who have been dehumanized by militarization, who have been compromised because of tourism and the debt crisis, and those who have to suffer from incurable diseases, carry toxins in their breast milk, and give birth to deformed or mutilated babies because of nuclear radiation and toxic waste dumping.

We are strengthened by our sisters who refuse to be immobilized in spite of their dehumanizing situations. We are inspired by the courage, the steadfastness, determination and the commitment of our Indigenous sisters who continue working for a transformed society,

where oppression due to race, class, gender, and nationality will no longer exist.

We believe that the formation of an international network of Indigenous women will help further our struggles to be liberated from all forms of oppression. This network should always ensure that Indigenous women *from the grassroots level* have representation in decision-making bodies and general assemblies.

We will carry out our responsibility in sharing what has transpired in this conference with the rest of our sisters who are not here with us and we will strive to continue expanding the linkages among ourselves regionally and globally.

We affirm our commitment to empowering ourselves through sustained education, setting up more Indigenous women's organizations and working out development and action programs which are sensitive and responsive to the needs and demands of the majority.

We are in solidarity with our sisters from the Americas who are going to celebrate the 500 Years of Indian Resistance to colonization and we look forward to joining with them in their celebrations.

## North American Conference on 500 Years of Resistance

The 1992 Bay Area Regional Indian Alliance is coordinating an *All-Native Conference* to plan and coordinate 1992 Year of Indigenous Peoples activities. The conference is an important North American follow-up to the July 1990 international gathering in Quito, Ecuador and the October 1990 meeting in Minneapolis.

The gathering will be held Friday through Sunday, March 22-24, 1991 at DQ University, a private, fully accredited Indian-sanctioned college, located 8 miles west of Davis, California. Papers, draft statements, action plans, recommendations, or suggestions should be submitted by March 18, 1991. Delegates from Indian organizations planning 500 Years activities as well as interested Indian people from the US and Canada are invited. If you are planning to attend, be sure to contact the coordinators as soon as possible.

**For more information contact:**  
**All Native Conference**  
**DQ University**  
**PO Box 409**  
**Davis, California 95617**  
**Telephone: (916) 758-0470**

# The Sixth NFIP Conference Adopts 1992 Resolutions

The *Sixth Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific Conference (NFIP)* was held November 1-7, 1990 in Waiuku, Pawarenga, Aotearoa (New Zealand). The following is a statement made on the 500 Years of Indian Resistance in their resolutions:

*...Indigenous Peoples still have a responsibility as caretakers of the land and all life-circles. These life-circles are threatened by the acceleration of the patterns of destruction initiated in 1492.*

*The Quincentennial is an unprecedented opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard, and to support each other with a united vision of a healthy environment, healthy lives, and freedom to live the way of life given by the Creator, in balance with the natural world.*

*Therefore, the Sixth NFIP Conference, meeting in Waiuku, Pawarenga, Aotearoa during the 1-7 November, 1990: 1) agrees to hold support actions on October 12, 1992 to celebrate the survival of Indigenous peoples, 2) agrees not to buy anything (accept in emergency situations) for one day, October 13th, 1992, in support of an International Indigenous Campaign, 3) declares 1992 to be "The Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples."*

**For more information on the NFIP, you can contact :**  
**Pacific Concerns Resource Centre**  
**PO Box 9295**  
**Newmarket**  
**Auckland, AOTEAROA (New Zealand)**  
**Tel: 09-375-862**

